

# GARBAGE GAZETTE

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Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

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## **“Choose To Reuse...It’s the Latest News!” Is Theme for 5th Annual Recycling Poster Contest**



“Choose To Reuse...It’s the Latest News!” is the theme for the annual poster contest for students in 4th, 5th and 6th grades, sponsored by DEP’s Recycling Program. In late August, DEP will send out packets containing the rules and other entry materials to principals at Connecticut’s elementary and middle schools. Any student attending 4th, 5th or 6th grade at one of Connecticut’s private or public schools is eligible to enter. Schools must first hold their own school-wide contest and then send the grade level winners from their school to DEP. These posters must arrive at DEP by Friday, November 3rd. A panel of judges will then select 4 posters from each grade level as state-wide winners. These twelve posters will be used to illustrate a calendar for 1996.

All posters reaching the statewide competition will be on display at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford during January 1996. Schools throughout the state will receive a supply of free posters as soon as they become available. These posters are also available at no charge to any requesting business or individual. If you would like more information about this contest, or would like to be on the mailing list to receive a poster(s) when they become available, please call Meg Enkler at (203) 424-3365.

## **CRC Annual Meeting to Feature Fashion Show**

The Annual Meeting of the Connecticut Recyclers Coalition will be held on Thursday, October 19, 1995 at the University of Hartford in West Hartford. The program will start at 10:30 a.m. with a short business meeting, which will be followed by a luncheon and fashion show of apparel made from recycled materials. Although only members of CRC are eligible to vote at the business meeting, the public is invited, and encouraged, to attend the luncheon/fashion show. You’ll be amazed to see both the variety and quality of products now being produced from things that each one of us recycles every day. Tickets to the event are only \$15. If you are not already on the mailing list but would like to receive notice of this event, please contact Meg Enkler at 424-3365. If you are interested in joining CRC or would just like more information about this organization, contact CRC President, Winston Averill at (203) 774-1253 or CRC Secretary Kathy Dube at (203) 522-2217.



## **“Ray Cycle” Show Begins a New Year**

As part of the Department’s ongoing outreach and education efforts, the Recycling Program will again be offering the Ray Cycle Show to elementary and intermediate schools in Connecticut during the 1995-96 school year. Through interactive song and dance, “Ray Cycle”, also known as Chris Rowlands, educates young people about recycling, source reduction, closing the recycling loop, and composting. The show was redesigned last fall and features a new backdrop and many new songs. The new show has proven very popular. All available dates for the fall are already booked. If you would like to schedule a show for the winter or spring months, don’t delay! To get more information, or to book a show, please call Arlene Cyr at 424-3365. There is no fee for this program, but a minimum audience of 100 is required.

## DEP Staff Participate in "Operation Wiggle"

Since April 1994, CT DEP Recycling Program staff have maintained an active vermicomposting bin. The bin is a commercially produced, recycled plastic model designed to hold about 2 lbs. of "red wiggler" (*Eisenida foetida*) worms. These worms live in a bedding mixture of shredded white office paper to which water has been added, creating the damp environment that allows worms to flourish. A bit of compost was added at the start when the bin was new. Each week approximately 3-5 lbs. of food scraps are added as food for the worms. A typical week's diet includes coffee grounds, apple cores, orange peels, wilted lettuce, stale crackers and tea bags. No animal products, fats or oils are added to the bin, as these can cause odor problems. The worms seem especially fond of items like melon.

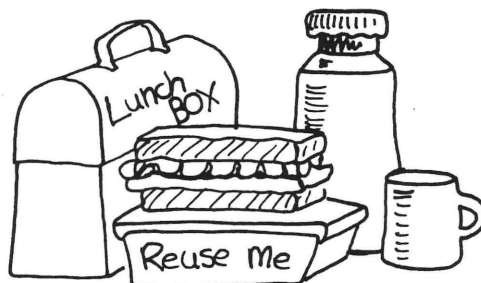
Over the first year of operation, the bin was kept at the home of nine different staff members, and the worms consumed over 115 lbs. of food scraps. Instead of being wasted, these scraps were transformed into vermicompost, a nutrient-rich plant food. The bin was cleaned out several times during the year, which involved harvesting the vermicompost and then returning the worms to a fresh bin of moist shredded white office paper.

This type of composting is ideal for apartment dwellers who may not have a place for an outdoor bin. It is also convenient for outdoor composters who may prefer having an indoor bin during the cold winter months. The purpose of this demonstration project was to collect data to share with individuals, especially teachers, who may be interested in starting a bin of their own. Vermicomposting is a great way to integrate waste reduction into a science program, providing opportunities for observation, data recording, etc. "Red Wigglers" also make the ideal classroom pet; they don't make any noise and can be left up to 2 weeks without being fed. The bin was used in several workshops for teachers, enabling them to view an active vermicomposting system. If you would like more information about vermicomposting, please call Meg Enkler or K.C. Alexander at (203) 424-3365.

### Upcoming Meetings

**"Come Full Circle"**, 14th Annual Congress and Exposition sponsored by the National Recycling Coalition will be held September 11-13, 1995 in Kansas City, Missouri. For more information call the NRC at (703) 683-9025.

**"Public & Private: A Partnership for the Future"**, SWANA's 33rd Annual International Solid Waste Exposition will be held on October 23-26, 1995 at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland. For more information, call SWANA at (301) 595-2898, and ask for the Meetings Management Department.



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